

## House Resolution 17 - Introduced

### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY HEDDENS, HEATON, SCHULTE, and M. SMITH

1 A Resolution recognizing Wednesday, March 2, 2011, as  
2 "Spread the Word to End the Word" day of awareness  
3 in Iowa and encouraging the American Medical  
4 Association, the American Psychiatric Association,  
5 and kindred organizations to utilize the term  
6 "intellectual disability" for clinical purposes.  
7 WHEREAS, the terms "mental retardation" and  
8 "mentally retarded", originally introduced as medical  
9 terms, have evolved in today's society to be used  
10 as hate speech to degrade and insult persons with  
11 intellectual disabilities; and  
12 WHEREAS, "Spread the Word to End the Word" is an  
13 ongoing effort by Special Olympics and Best Buddies  
14 International to raise the consciousness of society  
15 about the dehumanizing and hurtful effects of using  
16 terms based on the word "retarded" and encourage  
17 cessation of the use of such terms; and  
18 WHEREAS, the effort to build awareness would be  
19 greatly advanced if the American Medical Association,  
20 the American Psychiatric Association, and kindred  
21 organizations act to replace the use of terms based  
22 on the word "retarded" with the use of terms based  
23 on the words "intellectual disabilities" for clinical  
24 purposes; and  
25 WHEREAS, promoting the use of respectful and  
26 inclusive language is essential to acknowledging the  
27 dignity and humanity of persons with intellectual  
28 disabilities; NOW THEREFORE,

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
2 REPRESENTATIVES, That the House of Representatives  
3 proclaims and recognizes Wednesday, March 2, 2011, as  
4 "Spread the Word to End the Word" day of awareness in  
5 Iowa; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all Iowans are  
7 encouraged to declare support for their fellow Iowans  
8 with intellectual disabilities by spreading the word to  
9 end the word on March 2, 2011, and thereafter; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Medical  
11 Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and  
12 kindred organizations are encouraged to replace the use  
13 of terms based on the word "retarded" with the use of  
14 terms based on the words "intellectual disabilities"  
15 for clinical purposes.